THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Indian Scientists and Meteorologists have studied the climate data of more than 100 years available from the Indian Meteorological Department's (IMD's) network of meteorological stations spread all over the country. Average surface temperature over India as a whole has shown warming trend of the order of 0.5°C during the 1901-2006 with large spatial variations. No significant trends have been observed in rainfall during last century. However, decadal variations were found, which are within natural fluctuations.

Forest land under encroachment

1056. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of the forests which is under encroachment in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of steps initiated by Government to get the land evicted from the encroachers and safeguard the forest land;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) As per the reports received from State Forest Departments, the total area of forests under encroachment in the country is 14.54 lakh hectares. The State-wise details are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) The actions to evict the encroachers and safeguard the forest land are taken by the respective State/UT Governments in accordance with extant Acts/Rules. Some of the steps to safeguard the forest land from the encroachers include-

- Demarcation of forest areas by fixing of boundary pillars.
- Regular inspections by field staff.
- Establishment of chowkies in forest areas.
- Strengthening of communication system.
- Active involvement of local communities through Joint Forest Management Institutions in protection and management of forest resources etc.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

State-wise details of the total area of forests under encroachment in the country

Sl.No.	States	Area Under Encroachment (ha)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	**293000**(15/10/07)
2.	Bihar	**2634**(5/9/07)
3.	Chhattisgarh	**56490**(31/8/07)
4.	Gujarat	**24774**(31/3/07)

Sl.No.	States	Area Under Encroachement (ha)
5.	Goa	**1012**(31/3/04)
6.	Haryana	**1188**(31/8/07)
7.	Himachal Pradesh	**1481**(31/3/07)
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	**NA**
9.	Jharkhand	**58445**(31/3/06)
10.	Karnataka	**108405**(31/3/07)
11.	Kerala	**12474**(1/9/07)
12.	Madhya Pradesh	**240600**(30/6/07)
13.	Maharashtra	**NA**
14.	Orissa	**78505**(1/1/04)
15.	Punjab	**8400**(31/8/07)
16.	Rajasthan	**NA**
17.	Tamil Nadu	**15797**(31/3/07)
18.	Uttar Pradesh	**NA**
19.	Uttarakhand	**9736**(31/3/07)
20.	West Bengal	**13534**(17/10/07)
21.	Arunachal Pradesn	**89000**(10/
22.	Assam	**349401**(31/3/07)
23.	Manipur	**5244**(31/3/07)
24.	Meghalaya	**9312**(7/9/07)
25.	Mizoram	**18765**(6/9/07)
26.	Nagaland	**1655**(28/9/07)
27.	Sikkim	**3191**(19/9/07)
28.	Tripura	**47675**(31/3/06)
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	**3340**(7/9/07)
30.	Chandigarh	**Nil**(4/9/07)
31.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	**NA**
32.	Daman & Diu	**88**(17/10/07)
33.	Delhi	**200 (approx.)** (15/3/07)
34.	Lakshadweep	**No recorded forest area**
35.	Pondicherry	**No recorded forest area**
	TOTAL:	1454346

NA: Not Available

NOTE: Area under encroachment in various States/UTs is as on this date indicated in the brackets.